

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 764

By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ernest Chism on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Chism is one such estimable educator who has served with probity for 28 years as the Principal of Germantown High School and has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the capable leadership and guidance of Mr. Chism, Germantown High School grew from its 1,000-student enrollment when he walked onto the campus in 1974, to a school of 2,350 students, the largest in the Shelby County system; and

WHEREAS, during Ernest Chism's twenty-eight year stewardship, the school has been recognized for honors in athletics, academics, and fine arts, hosted a Presidential and a Vice Presidential visit, and seen high schools such as Houston, Cordova, and Kirby branch off from Germantown High; and

WHEREAS, as the quality of the athletics, academics, and fine arts programs has soared, the school has received national acclaim and recognition in a number of areas: in 1996, it was named a Blue Ribbon School, one of the top schools in the country; its student-run

television station, GHS-TV, is Germantown's community access station and consistently wins national awards for its broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, the Poplar Pike Playhouse, the GHS theater, is the benchmark for high school theaters in the area, while the school's athletic teams have won national and state titles in baseball, soccer, golf, cheerleading, and football; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Chism, has worked for the Shelby County Schools for forty years, and is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, he truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Chism epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated educator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Ernest Chism has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we commend Ernest Chism for his exceptional service to the young people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future career as Headmaster of Rossville Christian Academy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.